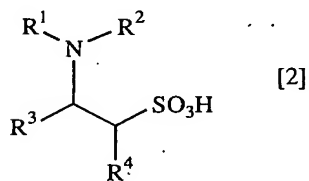
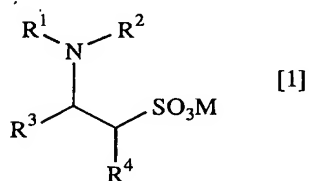


**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

(1) A process for producing an aminoalkylsulfonic acid represented by the general formula [2]:



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group; and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, comprising reacting an aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1]:

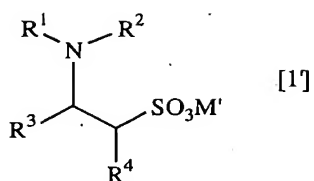


wherein M is an alkali metal atom, an organic ammonium ion or an ammonium ion; and  $R^1$  to  $R^4$  are the same as described above, an aqueous solution thereof, or a solution dissolving any one of them in a water-soluble organic solvent, selected from alcohols having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, carboxylic acids having 2 to 12 carbon atoms and dimethylformamide, with an organic acid.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic acid is a monocarboxylic acid having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a dicarboxylic acid having 2 to 12 carbon atoms.

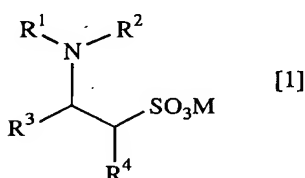
3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic acid is acetic acid.

4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the alcohol having 1 to 3 carbon atoms as the water-soluble organic solvent is methanol.
- 5 5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid having 2 to 12 carbon atoms as the water-soluble organic solvent is acetic acid.
6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble  
10 organic solvent is methanol.
7. The process according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group and  $R^2$  to  $R^4$  are each a hydrogen atom.
- 15 8. The process according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal atom represented by M is a sodium atom.
9. The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic ammonium ion represented by M is a triethanolammonium ion.
- 20 10. The process according to claim 1, wherein M is a sodium atom.
11. The process according to claim 1, wherein the aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1] is N-methyltaurine sodium salt, and the aminoalkylsulfonic acid represented  
25 by the general formula [2] is N-methyltaurine.
12. A method of salt exchange for an aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1']:

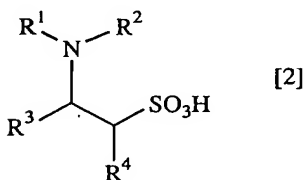


wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group;  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; and  $M'$  is an alkali metal atom, an organic ammonium ion or an ammonium ion, comprising

reacting an aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1]:



wherein  $M$  is an alkali metal atom, an organic ammonium ion or an ammonium ion; and  $R^1$  to  $R^4$  are the same as described above, an aqueous solution thereof, or a solution dissolving any one them in a water-soluble organic solvent, selected from alcohols having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, carboxylic acids having 2 to 12 carbon atoms and dimethylformamide, with an organic acid to obtain an aminoalkylsulfonic acid represented by the general formula [2]:



wherein  $R^1$  to  $R^4$  are the same as described above, and,

reacting the resulting aminoalkylsulfonic acid with a hydroxide represented by the general formula [6]:

M'OH [6]

wherein M' is the same as described above,  
in an alcohol or water.

- 5 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic acid is a monocarboxylic acid having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a dicarboxylic acid having 2 to 12 carbon atoms.
14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic acid is  
10 acetic acid.
15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the alcohol having 1 to 3 carbon atoms as the water-soluble organic solvent is methanol.
- 15 16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the carboxylic acid having 2 to 12 carbon atoms as the water-soluble organic solvent is acetic acid.
17. The method according to claim 12, wherein the water-soluble  
20 organic solvent is methanol.
18. The method according to claim 12, wherein the alcohol used for the salt exchange reaction is ethanol.
- 25 19. The method according to claim 12, wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group and  $R^2$  to  $R^4$  are each a hydrogen atom.
20. The method according to claim 12, wherein the alkali metal atom represented by M is a sodium atom.

21. The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic ammonium ion represented by M is a triethanolammonium ion.

22. The method according to claim 12, wherein M is a sodium atom.

5

23. The method according to claim 12 or 22, wherein the alkali metal atom represented by M' is a sodium atom or a potassium atom.

24. The method according to claim 12 or 22, wherein the organic ammonium ion represented by M' is a triethanolammonium ion.

10

25. The method according to claim 12, wherein the aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1] is N-methyltaurine sodium salt, the aminoalkylsulfonic acid represented by the general formula [2] is N-methyltaurine, the aminoalkylsulfonate salt represented by the general formula [1'] is N-methyltaurine sodium salt, N-methyltaurine potassium salt or N-methyltaurine triethanolammonium salt.

15